



This trail was installed as a
Community Service Project, by

LOUIS CALDERON

as partial completion of the
requirement for the rank of

EAGLE SCOUT

with the help of Boy Scout Troop 870,
Westminster.

Special thanks to Huntington Beach
Park Ranger, Mr. Dave Winkler.



WELCOME to Huntington Beach Central
Park. In the centerfold of this booklet
there is a map showing the locations
of the seven stations along the trail.
The markers are 3 inch diameter concrete
circles with raised wooden numbers.
They are level with the ground, about
a foot off the paved trail at each
given location.

GOOD LUCK! Have a nice day
at the park!

MILK THISTLE

Milk Thistle can be described as
a succulent plant with many spines on
the leaves and stems. The white color
of the leaves is caused by milk
The young tender plant stems can
be peeled and eaten, and the roots
are good when boiled with other food.

STATION 1

Standing at the marker to the left of the #6 Jog-Walk station, you can see a meadow area. These plants are all native to this area. This represents what the park would have looked like before this area was developed. Walk out beyond the row of young Pampas Grass and try to spot the following plants: Wild Sugar Beet, Milk Thistle, Wild Radish, Poison Hemlock, Ox Tongue, Wild Turnip, Black Mustard and Wild Celery.

POISON HEMLOCK

These green plants that look similar to carrot tops (brownish-white stalks in winter) are Poison Hemlock. The main way of distinguishing this species from others in its family are the red spots located on its stem and below its leaves. It contains a very deadly poison and can easily cause death if eaten even in small quantities. In ancient Greece a drink made from this plant was used to execute prisoners. Today most people are poisoned from either eating it or from blowing through the hollow stems.

MILK THISTLE

Milk Thistle can be described as a succulent plant with many spines on the leaves and stem. The white coloring of the leaves resembles milk.

The young tender plant stems can be peeled and eaten, and the roots are good when boiled with other food.

POISON HEMLOCK



MILK THISTLE



Now follow the trail to the left along the lake front to station #2.

STATION 2

This station is located in front of the Thomas B. Talbert Lake sign.

THOMAS B. TALBERT LAKE

The lake itself was originally formed by the natural seepage of the ground water table. When the water table is high, the lake is full and when the water table is low, the lake is low. There are three main types of fish located in the lake: channel Catfish, Bass, and some Blue Gill. The lake is also the home of many various types of ducks and migratory birds. The Coots are one of the most numerous. Look for this black bird with a white narrow beak. Some other types of ducks to look for are the Mallards, Pin Tails Cinnamon Teal, Shovelers and the Widgeon. The bird population of the lake is much larger during the winter months.



THOMAS B. TALBERT LAKE

Follow the trail until it forks. Take the fork to the extreme left following the lakefront to station #3.

STATION 3

This station is located under the first large Eucalyptus tree at the edge of the lake on the left of the trail.

EUCALYPTUS

In the Eucalyptus family there are more than 500 species native to Australia. 75 of those species were brought over to California to be used as lumber. However, for some strange reason, the trees do not grow straight in this region.

PEAT

One can not help noticing the black soil that is spread throughout the area. This is because of the large content of decomposed plant matter. It is a very rich productive soil. The dried soil breaks apart into layers and is burned for a major fuel source in England and Ireland.

PAPYRUS

This plant has tall, graceful, dark green stems 3-4 feet high and clusters of green thread like parts up to 18 inches long at the base of the cluster. In ancient Egypt this plant was used to make paper and scrolls.

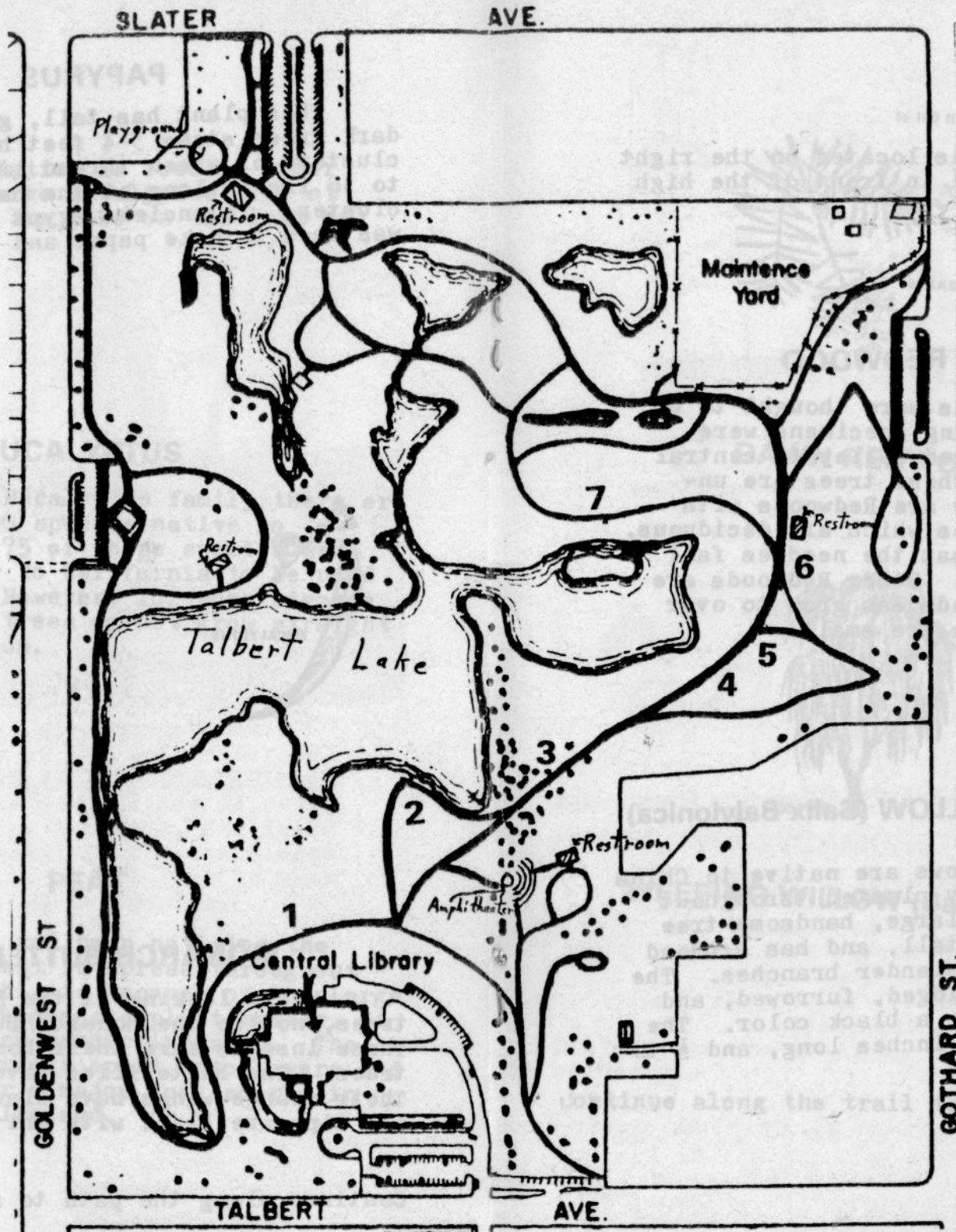


MONARCH BUTTERFLY

While looking at the Eucalyptus trees, notice the Monarch Butterfly. These insects make their homes in these trees. The butterflies have black bodies. Their orange wings have black streaks, the tips are black with white spots.

Continue along the path to station #4.

MAP



STATION 4

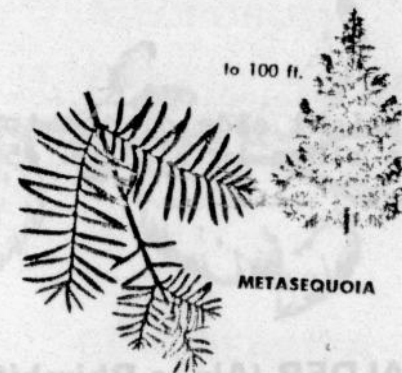
Station #4 is located on the right side of the trail in front of the high voltage box.

DAWN REDWOOD

These Redwoods were thought to be extinct until living specimens were found in an isolated valley in central China, in 1948. These trees are unusual because they are Redwoods with long linear needles which are deciduous. Deciduous means that the needles fall off in the winter. Other Redwoods are evergreen. Redwoods can grow to over 350 feet but these are small.

WEeping WILLOW (Salix Balyonica)

Weeping Willows are native to China but are now widely planted throughout the world. This large, handsome tree is 30 to 70 feet tall, and has a broad rounded crown of slender branches. The tree is heavily ridged, furrowed, and is a dark brown to a black color. The leaves are 3 to 6 inches long, and $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch wide.



DAWN REDWOOD



WEeping WILLOW (Salix Balyonica)

Continue along the trail to station #5.

STATION 5

On the right side of the trail in front of the rings is station #5.

WHITE ALDER (*Alnus Rhimbifolia*)

The tree with the whitish bark and oblong leaves with wavy edges is called White Alder. Its seeds are borne on small half-inch long cones. This tree is found in shady places near permanent water sources. Alders make excellent firewood because the burning wood does not throw sparks.

CALIFORNIA SYCAMORE (*Platanus Recemosa*)

One distinguishing thing about the Sycamore is that it has seed heads hanging down from its branches. The leaves are 6 to 10 inches with 3 to 5 lobes that are longer than broad. Sycamore trees grow 40 to 90 feet tall and 1 to 3 feet in diameter.



WHITE ALDER (*Alnus Rhimbifolia*)



CALIFORNIA SYCAMORE (*Platanus Recemosa*)

Continue on the trail to the left to marker #6.

STATION 6

This station is located at the furthest corner to the right of the trail next to the triangular planter.

PAMPAS GRASS (*Cortaderia Selloana*)

Pampas Grass is native to Argentina. Very fast growing, they may reach 20 feet in height. The plant resembles a fountain of saw-toothed, grassy leaves above which, in late summer, arise long stalks bearing white or pink flower plumes. Go over to one and run your hand up and down on one of the leaves. Note the saw-tooth effect.

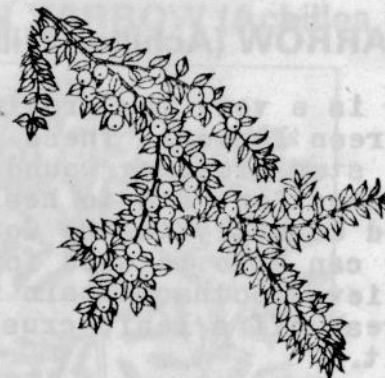
ICE PLANT (*Carpobrotus*)

Ice plant, sometimes called Sea Fig, is a succulent. It is coarse leaved, trailing, and an edible plant. Taste a leaf. It has a salty taste.

MYOPORUM

Trees in hedge like formation lining the trail. These trees have white bell shaped flowers, dark green shiny leaves, with small but colorful berries.

COTONEASTER



COTONEASTER

An evergreen, semi-deciduous shrub of fountain like growth with graceful arching branches. Its flowers are pink to white with small bright red berries. The Cedar Wax-wing bird may often be found feeding upon these berries.

Take the trail to the left heading back toward the lake for station #7.

STATION 7

Station #7 is located at the third clearing to the left. When reaching the marker walk down to the lake area.

COMMON YARROW (*Achillea Millifolium*)

Yarrow is a very low growing plant with lacy green leaves. These leaves are used to stop bleeding wounds, to reduce inflammation, and to heal rashes when applied directly to the wounded area. They can also be used for tea and can relieve toothache pain when chewed. Break off a leaf, crush it and smell it.

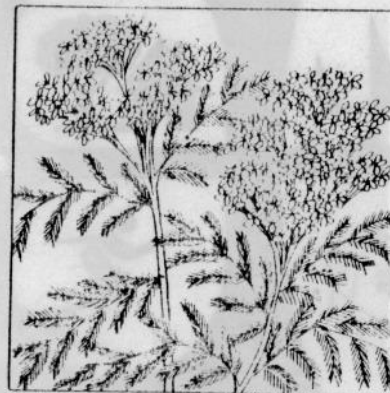
CATTAIL (*Typha*)

Cattails are found along streams and marshes throughout the West. Cattails have long bladelike leaves sometimes six feet long, and a jointless stem terminating in a sausage-shaped seed head. The Cattail is an outstanding edible plant. The roots, young shoots, seed heads, and pollen are all edible, and the leaves make an excellent material for weaving.

ARRAJO WILLOW (*Salix Lasiolepia*)

Across the water you see a large spreading tree. This Arrajo Willow is a very large specimen. This species usually grows to a shrub size. Another interesting fact about this tree is that it is one of the only native trees in this area.

COMMON YARROW (*Achillea Millifolium*)



CATTAIL (*Typha*)

